

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



**CORRECTED
FISCAL NOTE**

HB 1322 - SB 1148

April 1, 2011

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires a child advocacy center (CAC) to perform the initial forensic interview of a child who is the alleged victim of child sexual abuse. If subsequent interviews are necessary, the child protective team shall, whenever possible, interview the child in a neutral setting, away from where the alleged abuse occurred.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

On March 20, 2011, a fiscal note was issued estimating a fiscal impact as follows:

Increase State Expenditures - \$375,000

Due to a mistake by the Department of Children's Services, this impact was in error. Based on additional salary information provided by DCS for forensic investigators, the estimated fiscal impact is:

(CORRECTED)

Increase State Expenditures - \$350,000

Assumptions:

- According to the Department of Children's Services (DCS), child advocacy centers did 7,784 forensic interviews in FY09-10. In FY09-10, DCS had 9,969 sexual abuse cases. The CACs will serve at least an additional 2,185 juveniles (9,969 – 7,784) and possibly more if siblings are included in interviews.
- Forensic investigators will work 230 cases annually.
- Ten new forensic investigators will be required at the child advocacy centers (2,185 juveniles / 230 cases).
- In order for the child advocacy centers to comply with the bill's requirements, DCS will fund a portion of each new forensic investigator's salary and benefits. According to DCS, the state contribution will be \$35,000 per investigator. The total increase in state expenditures will be \$350,000 (\$35,000 x 10).

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- The child advocacy center will pay for the other portion of the investigators' salaries and benefits.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James W. White, Executive Director

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